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and ranchers in the state. There is not very many of them that I know could by any stretch of the imagination be considered fly-by-night employers. Is there any way that we can eliminate farmers and ranchers from this bill? They are not looking forward to being under the direction of the Department of Labor.

SENATOR BURROWS: Well, I could really not accept taking farmers or ranchers out of the bill. I happen to be a farmer and a farmer employer and I feel I should have to pay my employee. I think we have the bill now into a form, in the white copy, and this I would move be accepted where it will not bother any honest farmer or rancher, whether he reads the bill or not, he is not going to have any problem with it as long as he pays his employees. And we have excluded, I think, the problems that potentially existed in the original draft and some of the organizations were very concerned about killing the bill rather than amending it and getting it into a shape it did not create problems for honest farmers and ranchers and I am sure most of these organizational people would agree that the farmer or rancher who does not pay should not be protected but the man that is legitimate, which the vast majority, almost all of them, pay their employees, they should be protected from that unscrupulous employer that does not pay. So I don't think they should be eliminated from it. I think they should be eliminated from any possible additional paper work that would bother them on this score.

SENATOR RUMERY: Thank you, Senator Burrows. That brings up another point. Are the farmers and ranchers of this state going to be subjected to the dictates of the Department of Labor from time to time for making reports on their employment situations?

SENATOR BURROWS: We have no provisions left in the bill, in the amended version, for the Department writing rules and regs. This was taken out. The original draft allowed it which something might have happened down this route with the ability to write rules and regs. There are no reports required by farmers and ranchers and the only time the Labor Commissioner would come in on this is upon a written complaint or a complaint by an employee where he was not paid and then he would investigate it before taking an action and find out whether the farmer agreed that the complaint was legitimate.

SENATOR RUMERY: Thank you, Senator Burrows. I listened to a considerable amount of the testimony on this and there are people who have been harmed by some unscrupulous employers. We all know that but I can't conceive of the farmers and ranchers of this state being in that class, and even if they did fail to pay, they certainly have access to the small claims court and the farmer or rancher is not going to leave the state by night. Thank you.